

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1. A tire component comprising: (1) a microencapsulated reactant and (2) a  
5 reaction facilitator.
2. A process for forming tire components having improved durability, the  
process comprising the steps of:  
providing a tire component matrix;  
10 encapsulating a reactant to form microcapsules;  
selecting a reaction facilitator capable of facilitating the polymerization of the  
reactant; and  
adding the microcapsules and the reaction facilitator to the tire component  
matrix.
- 15 3. A banded tire having a band element comprising: (1) a microencapsulated  
reactant and (2) a reaction facilitator.